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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-770 NO. CONFIDENTIAL HANDLING INDICATOR

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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : AMMAN, TEL AVIV, LONDON, KUWAIT, USUN

RM/AN ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION BRANCH

DEPT PASS: ~~DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE~~, CINCSTRIKE FOR RAMSEY

FROM : Amembassy PARIS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
DATE: October 16, 1965
REVIEWED BY S. D. [illegible] DATE 2/1/84
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED
FOI EXEMPTIONS
PA Level

SUBJECT: Mirages for Jordan

REF

An Israeli Embassy colleague called on his own initiative at the Embassy the reporting officer on October 14, 1965. He raised "high level Jordanian statements" alleging that the United States is facilitating the acquisition by Jordan of French Mirage III aircraft. He asked (1) what the Embassy knew of the status of this matter, and (2) what attitude and role the United States has with respect to this transaction. The reporting officer, having in mind Amman's T-190 to the Department, Embassy Telegram 1733 and Department Telegrams 1441 and 1606, replied as follows:

France and Jordan have been negotiating the terms of a possible sale of French Mirage III aircraft (number unspecified) to Jordan. To the Embassy's knowledge these negotiations are still in course. The Embassy is aware of rumors which are circulating here that the U.S. is financially facilitating this transaction. These rumors are unfounded. The well-known reluctance of the U.S. to supply military aircraft to states in this area is unchanged. The negotiations in question concern the principals, and the latter have not brought the U.S. into their discussions.

The Israeli Embassy colleague stated that the foregoing confirmed the information available to the Israeli Embassy here. He noted that a Jordanian military mission is due to visit the Dassault plant on October 15, a fact which he construed as evidence that the Franco-Jordanian negotiations are making progress. He asked, in view of the importance of the financial resources aspect, whether the reporting

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Drafted by: POL:PSebastian:jp 10/15/65

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:ELStanger

Clearances:

officer thought King Hussein had received financial commitments from the Government of Kuwait during the King's recent visit there. The reporting officer professed to be uninformed but expressed as his personal opinion the view that Kuwait is likely to be reluctant to finance this transaction.

The Israeli Embassy officer noted that the sale, if it came to be consummated, would pose problems for Israel, but he refused to speculate on the eventual Israeli reaction as long as the outcome of Franco-Jordanian negotiations remained unclear.

The reporting officer seized the opportunity to inquire whether the Israeli Embassy officer knew of any further developments in the field of Israeli military aircraft procurement in France. The Israeli Embassy officer said he knew of none.

For the Ambassador:

Ernest L. Stanger

Ernest L. Stanger
First Secretary of Embassy